

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson****Full Committee Markup**

June 26, 2008 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the full Committee markup on H.R. 263, H.R. 2490, H.R. 3815, H.R. 4806, H.R. 5170, H.R. 5531, H.R. 5743, H.R. 5935, H.R. 5983, H.R. 6098, and H.R. 6193:

"Last week, the House unanimously approved seven homeland security bills that this Committee favorably reported.

Each bill stood on its own as a valuable addition to H.R. 1684, the authorization bill that the House approved last Spring that is still awaiting Senate action.

Today, we will consider another batch of homeland security bills that tackle a diverse range of homeland security challenges.

I am pleased that we have been able to work together, in a bipartisan manner, on these eleven wide-ranging provisions.

We have legislation that will make DHS the 'Gold Standard' in the Federal government when it comes to Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Information Sharing.

We have bills that will get DHS further down the track on efforts to deploy Next Generation nuclear detection equipment and establish the much-needed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

We have bills to authorize two successful pilots—one that involves the Coast Guard collecting biometrics from individuals interdicted at sea and the other that deploys nuclear detection equipment in our cities to provide another layer of defense.

We even have legislation to ensure that when DHS is building a fence or, for that matter, anything else, they build it with steel that is Made In America.

The measures considered today were introduced by ten different Members, nine of which are on this Committee.

We are truly blessed to have thoughtful Members that have good ideas on how to make DHS better and America more secure.

To my colleagues on the Committee, I would say, thank you. I look forward to working with you in a bipartisan way on these measures as they work their way through the legislative process."

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